poration pays bonus to the policy holders; if so, what are the criteria for determining the bonus;

(b) what are the elements considered for defining bonus while determining the quantum of bonus; and

(c) what is the percentage of profit made by LIC on the reinvestments and disbursed as bonus to the policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that "surplus" is determined every year actuarially. The profit made by the LIC on the reinvestments is also taken into account while determining the "surplus." 95% of such "surplus" is distributed to the 'with profit' policyholders as bonus. The rate of bonus depends upon the type of policy and duration from commencement. The quantum of bonus is determined in such a way that the allocated surplus covers the cost of bonus declared.

Termination of LIC Agents

2318. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of agents terminated by LIC during the last five years;

(b) what is the total amount of business secured by the terminated agents through the number of policies;

(c) what is the total amount of commission saved by LIC due to the termination of these agents; and

(d) what provision LIC has made to the orphaned policy holders created due to the termination of these agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total number of agents terminated during last five years, as intimated by LIC is as follows:—

Year	No. of agents terminated
1989-90	74873
1990-91	90696
1991-92	103848
1992-93	119253
1993-94	117783

(b) LIC have intimated that they do not compile statistics regarding the number of policies and sum assured under terminated agencies. The efforts involved in collection of such statistics will not be commensurate with the results.

(c) LIC have informed that the total amount of commission under the terminated agencies cannot be ascertained as no commission bill are prepared in respect of agents who are terminated and not eligible to receive Renewal Commission.

(d) LIC have informed that the policies introduced by a terminated agents do not become orphaned as they continue to be served by branch offices of LIC with the help of its existing field force.

Excise Duty Concession

2319. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision in the Central Excise Rules and Regulations to ensure that the concessions granted by Government in the excise duty to the manufacturers is necessarily passed on to the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a shortcoming in the rules and regulations and the steps taken to ensure that every paise of the excise concession granted by Government is passed on to the common man; and

(c) if not, the reasons for granting excise duty concession to the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Central Excise Duty concessions are granted to serve different objectives, which inter-alia, may include export promotion, protection to small scale industries, improving competitiveness of the domestic manufacturing sector through.

News Papers and Magazines

2320. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Hindi and English daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly news-